

1) Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 7-165790 - The relevance of this document is discussed at page 5 of the specification of the present application. An English-language abstract is also enclosed.

2) Japanese Patent Publication No. 4-228089 - The relevance of this document is discussed at page 4 of the specification of the present application. An English-language abstract is also enclosed.

3) WIPO 98/13388 is equivalent to U.S. pending application 09/269,332 both of which are enclosed herewith.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or the translation of the non-English documents, enclosed is an English-language international search report from the Japanese Patent Office in the PCT international application, from which this national phase U.S. application is derived, citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

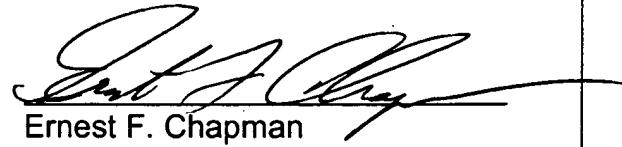
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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Enclosures
EFC/FPD/mld